

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims in this application, reflects all changes currently being made to the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and all earlier listings of the claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus that has multiple control programs for performing processing corresponding to printer functions, comprising:

    a first obtaining unit configured to obtain, from a first print control module, version information on a version of the first print control module and printer type information on a printer type supported by the first print control module;

    a second obtaining unit configured to obtain, from a second print control module, version information on a version of the second print control module and printer type information on a printer type supported by the second print control module;

    a recording unit configured to, if the printer type information obtained by said first and second obtaining units are identical to each other, record the version information of the first print control module on a newer one of the versions of the first and second control modules in correspondence with the printer type information as correspondence information if the version of the first print control module is newer than the version of the second print control module, and record the version information of the second print control module in correspondence with the printer type information as correspondence information if the version of the second print control module is newer than the version of the first print control module;

a recognition unit configured to recognize printer type information on a printer type of a certain printer;

a selection unit configured to automatically select the version information recorded in correspondence with the printer type information recognized by said recognition unit by referring to the correspondence information recorded by said recording unit; and

an execution unit configured to execute one of the first and second print control modules for the version information selected by said selection unit.

Claims 2 and 3. (Canceled)

Claim 4. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said recording unit records the correspondence information in a table format, including the printer type information, the version information and identification information for the print control module.

Claim 5. (Canceled)

Claim 6. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a setting unit configured to set the print control module for the version information selected by said selection unit such that the print control module can control the printer.

Claim 7. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to Claim 6, further comprising a control unit configured to inhibit activation of a print control

module for the version information that is not selected by said selection unit.

Claim 8. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to Claim 6, further comprising:

an identification unit configured to identify a first control program that controls the printer not based on a selection result by said selection unit and a second control program that controls the printer based on a result by said selection unit; and

an activation control unit configured to perform control such that the first control program is activated when said identification unit recognizes that the first control program exists.

Claim 9. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein said setting unit recognizes that the print control module can control a printer among printers supported by the print control module when a database file exists that stores control conditions and control variables for the printer.

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) A control method for controlling an information processing apparatus that has multiple control programs for performing image processing and control processing corresponding to printer functions, comprising:

a first obtaining step of obtaining, from a first print control module, version information on a version of the first print control module and printer type information on a printer type supported by the first print control module;

a second obtaining step of obtaining, from a second print control module,

version information on a version of the second print control module and printer type information on a printer type supported by the second print control module;

a recording step of, if the printer type information obtained by said first and second obtaining steps are identical to each other, recording the version information of the first print control module on a newer one of the versions of the first and second control modules in correspondence with the printer type information as correspondence information if the version of the first print control module is newer than the version of the second print control module, and recording the version information of the second print control module in correspondence with the printer type information as correspondence information if the version of the second print control module is newer than the version of the first print control module;

a recognition step of recognizing printer type information on a printer type of a certain printer;

a selection step of automatically selecting the version information recorded in correspondence with the printer type information recognized by said recognition step by referring to the correspondence information recorded by said recording step; and

an execution step of executing one of the first and second print control modules for the version information selected by said selection step.

Claims 11 and 12. (Canceled)

Claim 13. (Previously Presented) The control method according to Claim 10, wherein said recording step records the correspondence information in a table format, including

the printer type information, the version information and identification information for the print control module.

Claim 14. (Canceled)

Claim 15. (Previously Presented) The control method according to Claim 10, further comprising a setting step of setting the print control module for the version information selected in said selection step such that the print control module can control the printer.

Claim 16. (Previously Presented) The control method according to Claim 15, further comprising a control step of inhibiting activation of a print control module for the version information that is not selected in said selection step.

Claim 17. (Previously Presented) The control method according to Claim 15, further comprising:

an identification step of identifying a first control program that controls the printer not based on a selection result in said selection step and a second control program that controls the printer based on a result in said selection step; and

an activation control step of performing control such that the first control program is activated when said identification step recognizes that the first control program exists.

Claim 18. (Previously Presented) The control method according to Claim 15, wherein said setting step recognizes that the print control module can control a printer among printers supported by the print control module when a database file that stores control conditions and control variables for the printer exists.

Claim 19. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing thereon an executable program that can be executed in an information processing apparatus that has multiple control programs for performing image processing and control processing corresponding to printer functions, said storage medium storing an executable program for causing said information processing apparatus to execute:

a first obtaining step of obtaining, from a first print control module, version information on a version of the first print control module and printer type information on a printer type supported by the first print control module;

a second obtaining step of obtaining, from a second print control module, version information on a version of the second print control module and printer type information on a printer type supported by the second print control module;

a recording step of, if the printer type information obtained by said first and second obtaining steps are identical to each other, recording the version information of the first print control module on a newer one of the versions of the first and second control modules in correspondence with the printer type information as correspondence information if the version of the first print control module is newer than the version of the second print control module, and

recording the version information of the second print control module in correspondence with the printer type information as correspondence information if the version of the second print control module is newer than the version of the first print control module;

a recognition step of recognizing printer type information on a printer type of a certain printer;

a selection step of automatically selecting the version information recorded in correspondence with the printer type information recognized by said recognition step by referring to the correspondence information recorded by said recording step; and

an execution step of executing one of the first and second print control modules for the version information selected by said selection step.

Claim 20. (Withdrawn) A management method for managing device drivers in an information processing apparatus connectable to a peripheral device, comprising:

an obtaining step of obtaining version information for device drivers in the information processing apparatus and information on peripheral devices that can be controlled by the device drivers;

a recognition step of recognizing unnecessary device drivers among possibly multiple versions of device drivers that reside in the storage device of the information processing apparatus and correspond to a particular peripheral device, using the version information for the device drivers and information on peripheral devices controllable by the device drivers obtained in said obtaining step; and

a deletion control step of controlling deletion of device drivers that have been recognized as unnecessary by said recognition means.

Claim 21. (Withdrawn) The management method according to Claim 20, wherein said recognition step comprises an identification procedure for identifying a peripheral device and a determination procedure for determining that the newest version of device driver is not unnecessary among device drivers capable of controlling the peripheral device identified in said identification procedure, and repeats processing in said determination procedure for device drivers that support the peripheral device identified in said identification procedure.

Claim 22. (Withdrawn) The management method according to Claim 21, wherein in said recognition step, information on peripheral devices and device drivers is managed as table data and unnecessary device drivers are determined from the table data.

Claim 23. (Withdrawn) The management method according to Claim 20, wherein after newly adding a device driver to the information processing apparatus, said obtaining step, said recognition step, and said deletion step are executed.

Claim 24. (Withdrawn) An information processing apparatus that can be connected to a peripheral device and can manage device drivers, comprising:

obtaining means for obtaining version information for device drivers in the information processing apparatus and information on peripheral devices that can be controlled by the device drivers;

recognition means for recognizing unnecessary device drivers among possibly multiple versions of device drivers that reside in the storage device of the information processing apparatus and correspond to a particular peripheral device, using the version information for the device drivers and information on peripheral devices controllable by the device drivers obtained by said obtaining means; and

deletion control means for controlling deletion of device drivers that have been recognized as unnecessary by said recognition means.

Claim 25. (Withdrawn) The information processing apparatus according to Claim 24, wherein said recognition means recognizes the newest version of device driver as not unnecessary among device drivers that can control a particular peripheral device.

Claim 26. (Withdrawn) The information processing apparatus according to Claim 25, wherein in said recognition step, information on peripheral devices and device drivers is managed as table data and unnecessary device drivers are determined from the table data.

Claim 27. (Withdrawn) The information processing apparatus according to Claim 27, wherein after newly adding a device driver to the information processing apparatus, said obtaining means, said recognition means, and said deletion means are run.

Claim 28. (Withdrawn) A computer-readable storage medium storing a control program to be executed that can manage device drivers in an information processing apparatus connectable to a peripheral device, said medium storing a control program causing the

information processing apparatus to execute:

an obtaining step of obtaining version information for device drivers in the information processing apparatus and information on peripheral devices that can be controlled by the device drivers;

a recognition step of recognizing unnecessary device drivers among possibly multiple versions of device drivers that reside in the storage device of the information processing apparatus and correspond to a particular peripheral device, using the version information for the device drivers and information on peripheral devices controllable by the device drivers obtained in said obtaining step; and

a deletion control step of controlling deletion of device drivers that have been recognized as unnecessary by said recognition means.